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writer of this review, is in the opinions of the justices, 155 Mass. 598. There the question was as to the constitutionality of the proposition for the operation of municipal coal yards; upon that question five of the justices said that this was a well-known form of private business, — not differing essentially from the trades of buying and selling other necessities of life; the two dissenting judges dwelt upon the power of the law to meet all public needs. Mr. Chaplin pleads throughout that because of the present exigency the common law principle extends far enough to make out public calling in the present case. What he fails to consider is what consequences would follow, because of the force of a decision at common law in fixing a class for all future cases. Suppose a decision upon a writ of mandamus is handed down this month that coal mining, as it is conducted by the combination in Pennsylvania, is public calling because of the virtual monopoly; suppose, then, that next month the pool is broken and the seventy-five companies enter into competition, — does the business now revert to private calling? If you have one grocery in a town, that does not make it public calling, to revert to private calling when a new store is opened. Such a shifting of the position of things back and forth is hardly possible as a legal state of things. The law moves only in reference to conditions established by long experience, fixed upon stable foundations. Unless we restrict the unusual class of public callings to that situation where there is a permanent control of the service in the nature of things, we lay all industries open to public operation; that means the changing of our theory of the state from individualism to socialism.

B. W.

THE LAW OF VOID JUDICIAL SALES. The Legal and Equitable Rights of Purchasers at Void Judicial, Execution, and Probate Sales, and the Constitutionality of Special Legislation validating Void Sales and authorizing Involuntary Sales, in the Absence of Judicial Proceedings. Fourth edition. By A. C. Freeman. St. Louis: Central Law Journal Company. 1902. pp. 341. 8vo.

What is said of the third edition of this book in 4 HARV. L. REV. 97, is equally true of the fourth edition. The author deserves praise for his clear and logical treatment of a troublesome topic. Some simple theories are propounded which should help to solve the legal difficulties frequently arising in cases of execution and judicial sales. As a text-book on a branch of the law that is of interest primarily to the practitioner, the volume will surely prove to be a work of great usefulness, — in fact, a standard manual on its subject.

While the plan and scope of this edition are essentially the same as those of the third edition, material additions are made to the subject-matter and the number of citations is nearly doubled. The alteration in the title can, however, hardly be regarded as a change for the better. The former title, beginning "Void Execution, Judicial, and Probate Sales," is more comprehensive and at the same time more exactly descriptive of the contents of the work than the present heading.

A. L.

VISUAL ECONOMICS, with Rules for the Estimation of the Earning Ability after Injuries to the Eyes. By H. Magnus and H. V. Würdemann. Milwaukee: C. Porth. 1902. pp. 144. 5 plates. 8vo.

This book, which is designed to present to American readers the work of Professor Magnus, is an adaptation, rather than a translation, of the latter's German treatise. It enters upon a field hitherto almost wholly unexplored by English and American writers, namely, the scientific calculation of the economic values of bodily functions and the deduction of mathematical formulas designed to furnish a basis for determining the extent to which those values are impaired by injuries to the functions. The writers begin with a careful analysis of the elements entering into the complete earning capacity of individuals possessed of normal eyesight; they then evolve a formula by which to estimate the effect produced upon this "visual earning ability" by any